

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action, the allowance of Claims 1-49, 51-60, and 71-78 and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 63. Applicants submit that the present rejections should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed below.

The Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 61, 62, 79 and 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,447,105 to Ruehl ("Ruehl"). Office Action, p.2. Among other things, the Office Action cites to the respective flat portions 56 of the terminal clip connectors 52, 54 as the first and second connector of Claim 61. Office Action, p. 2. The lead 72 of Ruehl is cited as disclosing the first conductor of Claim 61. Office Action, p. 2. The terminal clip connector 52 in combination with the terminal 22 is cited as the service wire connector portion of the first conductor. Office Action, p. 2. Applicants submit that these rejections should be withdrawn at least as the clips of Ruehl are not part of the lead and because the rejection essentially treats the same component of Ruehl as both the service wire connector portion of the first conductor of Claim 61 and as the first or second connector of Claim 61.

Furthermore, the Applicants have amended Claim 61 to make it clear that the service wire connector is at one end of the first conductor and the second connector is electrically connected to an opposite end of the first conductor. In addition, to make the relationship of the service wire connector and first conductor even more clear, the service wire connector has been recited as "an insulation displacing" connector. Such an arrangement can be seen, for example, in Figure 13 of the present application. For the Examiner's convenience, Claim 61 is reproduced below with item numbers for exemplary features of the embodiments of Claim 61 illustrated in Figure 13 noted:

A telecommunications terminal block for making and breaking connections between a telecommunication conductor **802** and a service wire **808**, said terminal block comprising:

a housing having a first connector **822** and a second connector **828** mounted therein, the first connector **822** being electrically connected to the telecommunication conductor **802**;

a first conductor **818** in the housing, the first conductor having a first end electrically connected to the second connector (**bottom end as shown in Figure 13**) and having an insulation displacing service wire connector portion (**upper end as shown in Figure 13**) configured to receive the service wire **808** on a second end thereof displaced from the first end of the first conductor;

an electrical protection device **880** positioned in series between and electrically connecting the first connector **822** and the second connector **828**, wherein the electrical protection device is configured to break the electrical connection between the first connector and the second connector.

In contrast, while Ruehl does describe a terminal block for telephone lead wires, the terminal blocks are otherwise distinct in that they are, essentially, bridging connectors. Ruehl describes its invention as directed to the problem of providing components in addition to bridging connectors in the limited space available in this context. Ruehl, Col. 1, lines 25-34; Col. 2, lines 23-29. Ruehl illustrates an example of placement of a fuse 70 between terminal clip connectors 52 and 54, which clip connectors 52 and 54 may then bridge two adjacent terminals 22 on the terminal block. Thus, no separate first conductor with an insulation displacing connector is disclosed by Ruehl, nor would such an arrangement be desired in the space limited jumper terminal block context of Ruehl. Accordingly, Claim 61 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Ruehl and the rejection of Claim 61 should also be withdrawn for at least these additional reasons.

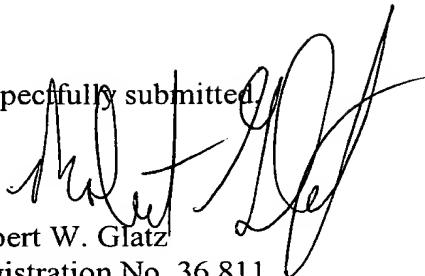
The rejected dependent claims are allowable at least based on their dependence on Claim 61. In addition, various of the dependent claims are separately patentable. For example, Claim 63 is separately patentable at least for the reasons it was indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons discussed above, the reference cited in the present rejections does not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all the pending claims and passing this application to issue.

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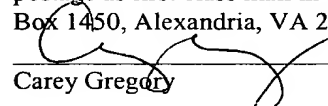
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